

HUMPBACK WHALE FACTS

Scientific name: *Megaptera novaeangliae*
meaning "Great wings of New England"

Hawaiian name: *Koholā*

Type of whale: Baleen whale

Birth weight and size: About 1.5 tons and 10 to 16 feet long

Size after first year: Doubled

Sexual maturity weight and size:

Females: About 45 tons and 45 feet long
Males: About 42 tons and 42 feet long

Sexual maturity age: 5 to 9 years

Life span: Estimated to be 40 to 50 years

Gestation: 10 to 12 months

Calving interval: 1 to 3 years

Life cycle: Breeds, calves and nurses in Hawai'i in the winter (November to May), then migrates to the Gulf of Alaska and other areas in the North Pacific to feed in the summer (May to November).

Diet: Krill, plankton, herring and other small fish. Scientists believe that humpbacks fast while in Hawai'i.

Migration distance: About 3,000 miles between Hawai'i and Northern feeding grounds.

Average migration speed: Continuously travels approximately 3 to 7 miles per hour with very few stops.

Humpback whales are the fifth largest of the great whales!

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HAWAIIAN ISLANDS HUMPBACK WHALE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

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